

upon this plan, they were to get, if possible, on to the great yam plains unperceived by the wicked old bird. One was to hide in the tall yam stalks, and the other was to pretend to feed, and afterwards to sleep, and when the old beast came to procure his disgusting meal, at a preconcerted signal they were to fall upon him and slay him, and so rid Bustardy for ever of the worst monster that ever lived. All of this they succeeded in carrying out effectually, and when being feasted and caressed by the whole Bustard nation who had congregated to do honour to those gallant young slayers of the hideous monster, they suddenly soared away in curling whirls, higher and higher, until they reached the sky, and became the two stars that always point to the southern cross. The consternation and grief of the poor bustards was immense, when they saw their two deliverers soaring away towards the heavens, but when they saw them fixed as stars, they danced with joy, saying the earth was not good enough for them, and that they were better rewarded for the great good they had done on earth, by being made two such brilliant stars, than if all the bustards in the world had given them everything they possessed; and these two beautiful stars can easily see from their glorious position, how everlastingly grateful all the Bustard people are, and will be; and gratitude is to them as the fragrance of the myall is to the nostrils of the yam feeding bustards.

---

ART. VIII.—*On Dry Rot.* By THOMAS S. RALPH, Esq.,  
M.R.C.S., &c.

[Abstract of paper, the original read 30th September, 1861.]

The various kinds of fungus were shown, interlaced with the woody fibre. The rot might take place externally in timber, in damp and dark places; yet it was commonly found in such a position as left no room to doubt that it must have grown up inside the tree before it was cut down.

The remarks were chiefly in reference to pines, but Mr. Ralph stated his intention of prosecuting his researches on the same subject in connection with the woods of this country